



St. John's Church
Know • Grow • Go

FALL 2025

**September, October, and
November**

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34



GOD IS GREATER
CELEBRATING
God's Goodness
in **EVERY**
SEASON



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS
SMALL GROUP TOURS





The purpose of St. John's Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who:

- (1) **Know Jesus** as their personal Lord and Savior,
- (2) **Grow in Faith** to become more like Jesus, and
- (3) **Go Serve** others near and far in Jesus' name.

Current Services and Ministries

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.ilovestjohns.org and click on the events page.

Sunday:	9:30-10:15	Sunday School
	10:30-11:30 am	Morning Worship (live-streamed)
		Staffed Nursery (birth to age 3)
		Children's Church (age 4 to grade 3)
Wednesday:	7:00-7:30 pm	Share & Prayer Phone Call (dial 716-427-1128, access code 395586)
Thursday:	6:00-7:30 pm	Worship Team Practice

Monthly:	1st Saturday at 8:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Heisey's Diner)
	Times & Dates vary	Church Fellowship Events



Prayer Chain

Please call/text Pastor Jeff Berger
at 717-371-0840.

ST. JOHN'S E.C. CHURCH

683 Steelstown Road, Annville, PA 17003

Church Telephone: 717-838-1171

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey S. Berger

717-371-0840 (cell)

jeff@ilovestjohns.org

Worship Director: Tim Yordy

570-495-6182 (cell)

tim@ilovestjohns.org

Secretary: George Miller

717-926-2447 (cell)

george@ilovestjohns.org

Pastor's Day Off: Mondays



Celebrate God's Provision!

Sunday, October 19 at the Hershey AACA Museum

4:00 pm = Doors open to enjoy the museum (optional)

5:30 pm = Buffet Dinner, 7:00 pm = TrueSong Concert

Sign up in the coatroom or call Pastor Jeff at 717-371-0840



Meet the world's most practical marriage assessment!

You can build your marriage on more than a hope and a prayer. The SYMBIS Assessment gives you a personalized road map to making your marriage everything it was meant to be.

Engaged couples, newlywed couples, and married couples at various stages find the results to be extremely helpful!



For more information, including a list of frequently asked questions, please visit:

**NHCC's website at www.ihavenewhope.org or
St. John's website at www.ilovestjohns.org**



Getting to know Ministry Architects!

Ministry Architects was founded in 2002 by Mark DeVries. At that time, Mark was serving as the associate pastor for youth and their families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. Early in his ministry with First Presbyterian, Mark realized his “seventy-hour plus workweeks” were producing few visible signs of a ministry “off and running.” And he knew change was needed. The results of those changes, Mark’s unique approach to ministry, is how Ministry Architects came to be an environment where people can bring fears to God and to the community for support.

Mark’s first book, *Family-Based Youth Ministry*, jump-started the national conversation about how youth workers can engage parents as the primary spiritual leaders in their homes. He soon became a frequently-sought speaker and trainer, as churches in need of something said, “Help our youth ministry look like your youth ministry.” With those invitations and conversations, Mark quickly realized that churches did need something: to be who God was calling them to be... but with the proper systems and processes in place to help them execute that calling well. Thus, Youth Ministry Architects was born.

Just like Mark did 20+ years ago, we continue to launch our consulting projects with a process called The Assessment. This is where we visit an organization for a few days and spend the first half of the visit listening to as many stakeholders as we can. From youth to their parents, staff to volunteers, we listen and we learn. We then compose a multi-faceted report that reflects the consensus of where the ministry is today and where the church believes God might be leading. We compare specific key metrics to national norms, and we name the assets and challenges currently present. We end the report with a detailed list of recommendations and provide a strategic timeline, outlining how to move forward.

After we’ve served in the role of architect, we become the general contractor who makes sure the project is successful. We train, coach, and lift heavy loads as the church, ministry, or organization implements the recommendations from the report.

This process takes a serious commitment of time and energy from the consultant, and Mark quickly saw that if Ministry Architects was going to have a national or global impact, more consultants were needed. He taught the Ministry Architects’ principles and techniques to a handful of veteran youth workers, who then taught them to other new consultants.

Today, what once was Youth Ministry Architects has evolved into Ministry Architects, as we’ve learned that our systems and processes are applicable to more than youth ministry. Our 1000+ clients include whole churches, children’s ministries, theological institutions, non-profits, and more and more faith-based organizations every year.



“Only God” Moments

There is something unique about your story. Would you be willing to share it? Become well versed in your “only God” moments. Those precious events in your life that only God could have orchestrated. There was an occasion when Jesus healed a deranged man. The fellow had made his home in a cemetery and cut himself with rocks. When Jesus delivered him from the affliction, the man wanted to go with Jesus. Christ, however, said, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you...” (Mark 5:19 NKJV).


In other words, speak up! Do you feel ill equipped to do so? That’s okay. You have God’s Spirit to help you, and God’s plan is reduced to one strategy: ordinary folks telling the extraordinary story of Jesus with the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit.

Uncommon Forces

“Do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say... For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you” (Matthew 10:19-20 ESV). Best I can tell, this promise of Jesus has not been rescinded.

On the day Brenda Jones went to see the plastic surgeon, she was in a battle with breast cancer. She asked if she could share a story, and Dr. Pete politely said “yes.” He listened to the story about the God who became a baby, then a man, and then a sacrifice for humanity. “He died for you, Dr. Pete,” she told him. The fifteen-minute conversation changed Dr. Pete forever!

The promise of Pentecost. The Spirit turns common folk into uncommon forces, and turns those who are lost into those who are saved. Might the Spirit do the same with us? With you?



Thanksgiving Prayer

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

SEPTEMBER MILESTONES

September Birthdays

1	Dave Bomgardner
3	Heidi Crisp
5	Justin Hirons
8	Nikki Custer Angela Geib
11	Micah Steele
13	Charlie McCrone
15	Wayne Schmoyer JT Markley
17	Randy Krall
18	Savannah Kleinfelter
19	Brandon Hostetter
21	Sandy Unger
23	Cheryl Gecelosky Nancy Bordlemay
25	Libby Custer
28	Marlene Blauch
29	Norene Shuey
30	Earl Blauch Eileen Yorty

September Wedding Anniversaries

10	Josh & Laura Zimmerman
16	Charlie & Ruth McCrone Jim & Cheryl Gecelosky
17	Jerry & Dee Stover
18	Matt & Stephanie Yorty
23	John & Norene Shuey
25	Ralph & Rachel Blauch
26	Dave & Vikki DeLong

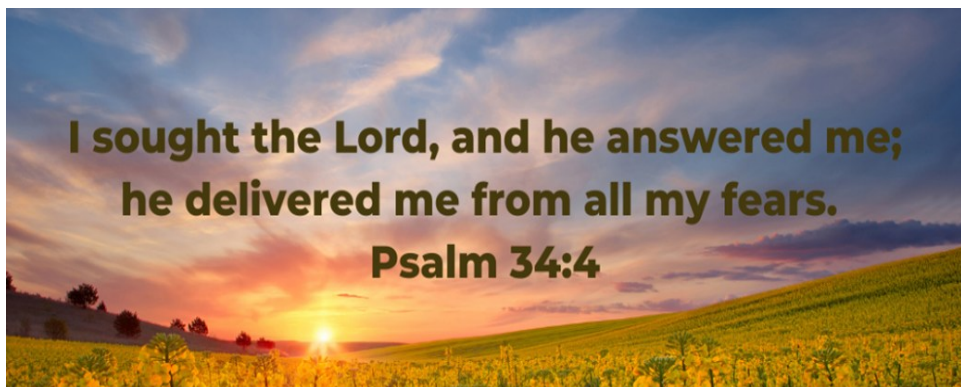


September Greeters

7	Kathy Heckman
14	Connie Mickey
21	Joel & Kim Wolfe
28	Kris Turner

September Schedule

	7	14	21	28
Worship Nursery Attendants	Lori Caruso & Pat Bender	Barb Blauch & Cheryl Gecelosky	Eileen & John Yorty	Judy Markley & Vikki DeLong
Children's Church	Lori C & Pat Bender	MMK	Paula T & Evie Y	Brenda C & Kathy H
Audio Tech	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies
Video Tech	Kory Blauch	Melanie Hutson	Justin Hirons	Jacob Gingrich
Stewardship Team	John Horvath & Travis McFeaters	Joel & Kim Wolfe	Carol Ruth & Esther Hamilton	Jim & Brenda Jefferies
October Trustee: Jerry Stover				



OCTOBER MILESTONES

October Birthdays

3	Elizabeth Elhardt
	Barb Hostetter
4	Esther Hamilton Kris Turner
5	Kieara Stitt
6	Dave DeLong
7	Anne Ail
10	Barry Hostetter
15	Emerson Gingrich
18	Les Mickey Trisha Tshudy
23	Greta Bomgardner

October

Wedding Anniversaries

1	Dave & Donna Bingaman
2	Seth & Erica Custer
9	Aaron & Luann Martin
10	Dave & Sharon Bomgardner
28	JT & Judy Markley



October Greeters

5	Wayne Schmoyer
12	Jim & Brenda Jefferies
19	Dale & Brenda Custer
26	Dave & Vikki DeLong

October Schedule

	5	12	19	26
Worship Nursery Attendants	Alex Yordy & Barb Hostetter	Mindy A & Diane Krall	Eileen & John Yorty	Kim Wolfe & Brenda Jefferies
Children's Church	Korin & Emerson G	MMK	Donna & Dave B	Paula T & Evie Y
Sound Tech	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies
Video Tech	Kory Blanch	Melanie Hutson	Justin Hiron	Jacob Gingrich
Stewardship Team	John Horvath & Travis McFeaters	Joel & Kim Wolfe	Carol Ruth & Esther Hamilton	Jim & Brenda Jefferies
September Trustee: Joel Wolfe				



NOVEMBER MILESTONES

November Birthdays

1	Jayden Hoke Juliet Bomgardner
2	Travis McFeaters
4	John Horvath
6	Vikki DeLong
10	Ernie Hostetter Alexis Zimmerman
11	Dale Custer
14	Olivia Yorty
16	Brenda Wolfe
21	Jodi Blauch Bonnie Landis Dave Rhoads
22	Scott Miller
25	Melinda Allmond
27	Diane Hostetter Sharon Bomgardner
28	Caitlin Steel
29	Sophia Shoemaker
30	Laura Zimmerman

November Wedding Anniversaries

1	Steven & Angie Geib
7	Kris & Crystal Turner
11	Ron & Karen Pfister
18	Christian & Korin Gingrich

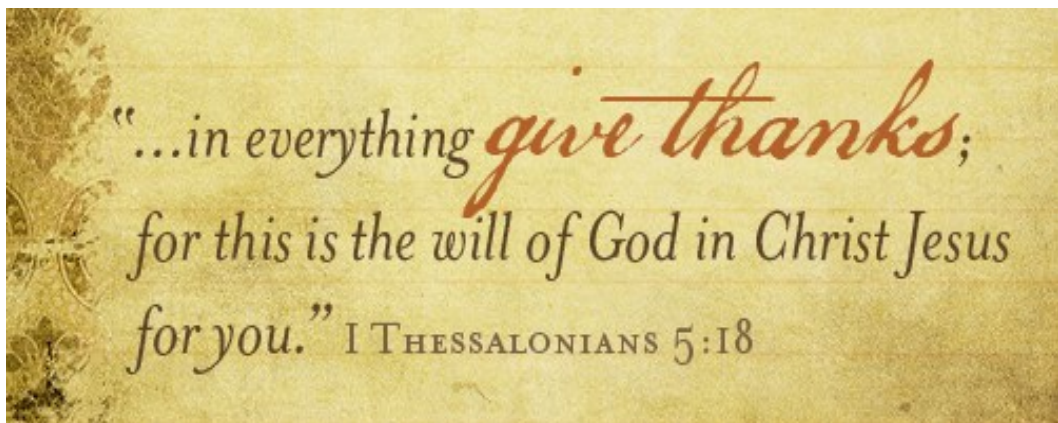


November Greeters

2	Christian & Korin Gingrich
9	TBD
16	Earl & Barb Blauch
23	Georgee Miller
30	Loretta Herr

November Schedule

	2	9	16	23	30
Worship Nursery Attendants	Lori Caruso & Pat Bender	Barb Blauch & Cheryl Gecelosky	Eileen & John Yorty	Judy Markley & Vikki DeLong	Donna & Dave B
Children's Church	Brenda C & Kathy H	MMK	Korin & Emerson G	Donna & Dave B	Paula T & Evie Y
Sound Tech	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies	Travis McFeaters	Jim Jefferies	Travis McFeaters
Video Tech	Kory Blauch	Melanie Hutson	Justin Hirons	Jacob Gingrich	Jacob Gingrich
Stewardship Team	John Horvath & Travis McFeaters	Joel & Kim Wolfe	Carol Ruth & Esther Hamilton	Jim & Brenda Jefferies	Joel & Kim Wolfe
November Trustee: TBD					





The Pantry is a free resource to bless you, your family, and others!

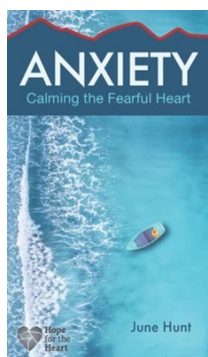
GROCERIES: canned goods, pasta, potatoes, baking supplies, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, snacks, candy, condiments, coffee, tea, and more!

FROZEN ITEMS: chicken tenders, sausage, bacon, chicken thighs, breakfast sausage, ham, hot dogs, lunch meat, cheese, and more!

DRINKS: bottled water, flavored water, iced tea, lemonade, sport drinks, protein drinks, juice, and more!

PERSONAL ITEMS: soap, body wash, shampoo, razors, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, deodorant, hand sanitizer, cold medicine, and more!

CLEANING SUPPLIES: glass cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, bleach, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish liquid, air freshener, and more!



Be sure to visit the new Christian Counseling Booklets area downstairs in the NHCC Waiting Room / Youth SS Room! They are to bless you, your family, and others.

There are 48 titles for you to choose from, and they are free!



The purpose of New Hope Christian Counseling is to provide Christ-centered, Biblically based emotional, relational, and spiritual guidance to children, teens, and adults experiencing challenging life-issues.

Our counselors have experience working with people facing many issues including, but not limited to, the following:

Anger Management
Grief
Depression
Sexual Assault
Family Dynamics

First Responders
Conflict Resolution
Parenting
Marriage Counseling
Stress Management

Anxiety
Faith
Divorce
Trauma
Pre-Marriage



Dave Berger
Director, Counselor



Pastor Jan Fryer
Counselor



Jennifer Wolfe, MA
Art Therapist,
Counselor



Georgee Miller
Office Manager,
Coach

***To schedule an appointment, please call 717-685-5157.
More info at www.ihavenewhope.org***



At Any Moment

Christianity is on the decline in our country. The number of believers has dropped 12 percent in the last decade. Major depression is on the rise. The increase is found in all age groups but is rising fastest among teens and young adults. The increase in suicide is alarming. According to federal data on the US suicide rate, it is the highest it has been since World War II.

Yet we have this hope: revival can come at any moment! At the right hour God will open the floodgate and release his Spirit like a flowing river into society. This was the promise of Jesus. "Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice... 'If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow from that person's heart'" (John 7:37-38 NCV).

Keep Listening for the Holy Spirit

The phrase "led by the Spirit of God" is such a happy one. The Spirit gently leads us as a shepherd would lead a flock. He is more committed to leading us than we are to following him. So relax! If you don't sense his guidance, ask again.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5 NKJV). He is completely capable to lead you where he wants you to go. He might use a nudge, a prick of the conscience, a reminder of Scripture.

The Spirit first speaks through the verse. He may complement the verse with a voice. Go first to the verse. His will never contradicts his Word. When you open your Bible, God opens his mouth. The verse and the voice. God is calling. Keep listening.



FALL WORD SEARCH

S G I V I S G W O R C E R A C S
C O L L A H S C A E I T H R E W
P U M P K I N O K S D E R O R O
T R L U N S R A L L E R D C O R
H D E M L B O N F I R E I H N A
A C A R L O C A R A E L C E E N
N O V E T H A N K S G I V I N G
T R L P H A G O U E R I F Y A E
S W L M A L C R N L E A V E S T
E C A A N L P P A P H A L L O C
V I B H F O O T B P I D E L H O
R E T A E W S H R A N A R O A R
A D O Y T E N A N R E S T W R M
H O O R H E D I R Y A H S E V U
E R F R E N E Y O U R F N O B P
E N E N A E H S C R O W O L L E

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FOOTBALL
GOURD
HALLOWEEN

HARVEST
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
PUMPKIN
ORANGE

RED
SCARECROW
SWEATER
THANKSGIVING
YELLOW





Decisions, Decisions

According to God's plan life is a series of decisions. Do I move or stay? Hold on or let go? Tie the knot or not? Small decisions. Large decisions. Decisions everywhere! We make our choices, and they make us. Consequently, decision-making saps energy and creates anxiety. What if I make the wrong choice?

So what can we do? Given the weightiness of choices, how can we make good ones? You will be encouraged by the promise of Scripture. We can be led by the Holy Spirit: "He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:3 ESV). God, our Good Shepherd, doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us. He keeps us on the right track. He has commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the winding roads of life.

The Promised Power

Jesus would not let his followers begin their ministries unless they knew the Holy Spirit. By this point the disciples had spent three years in training. They had seen the empty tomb, they had touched his resurrected body, they had spent forty days listening to the resurrected Christ teach about the kingdom. But they needed more. Jesus told them, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NKJV).

The Holy Spirit comes with power. Power to make good choices, to keep promises, to silence the inner voices of fear and failure. Power to get busy about the right things in the right way. Power! This is what Jesus promised then, and this is what Jesus promises still.

***Do you have a friend whose church might be interested in a tour?
Please tell Pastor Jeff or point them to ilovestjohns.org/SJCJ***

**Your church small group
of 10-14 people can
save 35% or more* on
professional, guided
Christian tours with...**



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS
SMALL GROUP TOURS

Three Amazing Destinations, Seven Great Tours!



Tour 1: Creation Museum & Ark Encounter (4 days)

Tour 2: Museum of the Bible (1 day)

Tour 3: Museum of the Bible (2 days)

Washington National Cathedral, National Mall



Tour 4: Billy Graham Library & Asheville (4 days)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodrow Wilson Library,
Lazy 5 Ranch, Biltmore, The Cove

Tour 5: Billy Graham Library & Asheville (5 days)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodrow Wilson Library, Lazy 5
Ranch, Biltmore, The Cove, Monticello, Montpelier

Tour 6: Billy Graham Library & Charlotte (4 days)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodrow Wilson Library,
JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Relay Service), Lazy 5 Ranch,
NASCAR Hall of Fame, Basilica of Saint Andrew



Tour 7: Billy Graham Library & Charlotte & OCC (4 days)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodrow Wilson Library, NarroWay
Dinner Theater, OCC Processing Center, Basilica of Saint Andrew



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN JOURNEYS
SMALL GROUP TOURS

SJCJ is a ministry of St. John's E.C. Church
of Steelstown, PA and financially
supports its Blessing Fund to help those
in need. (www.ilovestjohns.org)

***Your travel makes a difference.
Thank you!***

* Savings are approximate and are compared to luxury bus tours with premium accommodations and included meals.



683 Steelstown Road
Annville, PA 17003

FYI: If you are receiving this newsletter and ever have a change of address, **PLEASE LET US KNOW.** The Post Office will not forward the newsletter to your new address, and, we want to be good stewards of the Lord's finances. Simply contact the Church Office at 717-838-1171; leave a message if no one answers. **THANK YOU!**

